

In the Specification:

Please delete the heading at page 1 above line 1.

Please add a new heading at page 1, above line 1, as follows:

TITLE OF THE INVENTION

Please add a new heading at page 1, above line 3, as follows:

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

Please replace the paragraph at page 1, lines 3 to 7, with a replacement paragraph amended as follows:

The invention relates to a semifinished product of composite material according to the preamble of the claim 1. ~~Moreover, the invention relates and~~ to a method for the production of a semifinished product of composite material according to the preamble of the claim 6. material.

Please add a new heading at page 1, above line 8, as follows:

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Please add a new heading at page 3, above line 1, as follows:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Please replace the paragraph at page 3, lines 5 to 9, with a replacement paragraph amended as follows:

This problem is solved by a semifinished product according to ~~patent claim 1.~~ According to the invention, wherein ceramic particles are encased or embedded in the metallic matrix material for increasing the strength of the semifinished product with respect to torsional loading or transverse loading.

Please delete the paragraph at page 3, lines 21 to 22.

Please add a new paragraph at page 3, line 21, as follows:

The invention further provides a method of producing a semifinished product of composite material, in which high tensile strength fibers coated with titanium or a titanium based alloy are consolidated under pressure at high temperature to form the semifinished product. In connection with the coating of the high tensile strength fibers with titanium or the titanium based alloy, ceramic particles are embedded in the coating of the fibers, and the thusly coated fibers are arranged in a desired geometry and consolidated to form the semifinished product.

Please add a new heading at page 3, above line 23, as follows:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Please replace the paragraph at page 3, line 23 to page 4, line 3, with a replacement paragraph amended as follows:

~~Preferred further developments of the invention arise from the dependent claims and the following description.~~

An example embodiment of the invention is described in further detail, without being limited to this, in connection with the drawing. Therein, it is shown by:

Please add a new heading at page 4, above line 10, as follows:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF EXAMPLE EMBODIMENTS OF THE INVENTION

Please replace the paragraph at page 5, line 16 to page 6, line 7, with a replacement paragraph amended as follows:

Thus, the inventive semifinished product 10 is formed of a metallic matrix material of titanium or a titanium based alloy, whereby on the one hand silicon carbide fibers are embedded in the matrix material of titanium or the titanium based alloy, and whereby on the other hand ceramic particles 13 of titanium nitride are embedded in the matrix material 11. With the assistance of the embedded ceramic particles, an increase of the strength of the inventive semifinished product 10 with respect to torsional loading or transverse loading can be realized. The finely disbursed dispersed distribution of the nanometer sized or micron sized ceramic particles 13 in the matrix material 11 namely leads to a blocking of the shear bands arising in the metallic matrix under torsional loading or transverse

loading, which results in an increase of the strength of the semifinished product 10. Furthermore, a crack propagation in the matrix material 11 is made more difficult, and thereby an operating service life increase is made possible. The inventive semifinished product 10 thereby has overall improved strength characteristics relative to semifinished products known ~~out of~~ from the prior art.

[RESPONSE CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE]